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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health

Statement submitted by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2009/100.

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Statement*

Member States to take up their responsibilities

The Association Comunità Papa Giovanni 23° in relation to the theme "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", wishes to state the following:

Inequities are increasing both within and between countries and are not inevitable. These inequities are dramatic consequences of distributive injustice and policy failure worldwide.

The current model of development, based on market liberalization and commercial globalization, has clearly failed to deliver Health for All. In low and middle-income countries the health situation has even worsened for the vast majority of the poor.

The food crisis, the global financial crisis and the threat of climate change are all elements that jeopardize the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

Hence, we call upon the Member States to clearly commit to:

- Addressing the social determinants of health (poverty, food security, education, gender issues, conflicts, etc.) as they are crucial for achieving global public health.
- Keeping the promise to release within the year 2010 the 0.51% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), as intermediate step to reach 0.7% in 2015 in order to achieve the Millennium Developments Goals.
- Focusing on reforming global governance (especially the criteria of representation and voting in the Bretton Woods institutions) to enhance inclusiveness, equality of voice, transparency and accountability.
- Reinstalling your role as a State in providing basic services essential to health by increasing health and social welfare budgets and reducing military expenses.
- Total cancellation of the foreign debt for those countries that are unable to pay it back and are stranded by the debt obligations.
- Investing in research on social determinants of health to provide more evidence-based knowledge on how such determinants influence population health and health equity.
- Drawing health policies, programs and projects based on a human rights health-development approach and Primary Health Care priorities.
- Assuring universal access to ART (antiretroviral therapy) for adults and children living with HIV/AIDS.
- Taking urgent and concrete measures to address climate change and environmental degradation.
- Implementing fully what is stated in article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRS).

* Issued without formal editing.

The Association Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII is an international spiritual family of Faithful of Pontifical Right accredited to ECOSOC with a special consultative status. Present in five continents, the Association is on the forefront in the fights against AIDS and promotion of better health, especially in Zambia, United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya.

Through years of experience in sharing life with the least fortunate in society, the AIDS victims, orphans, women forced into a life of prostitution, disabled people, especially in Africa and Latin America, the members of thè Association know that the poor cannot wait; should not wait.

The poor have got names, faces, lives marked with sad and painful stories; they are not merely statistics.

Their voices must by heard by Member States. As a civil society organization we feel compelled to make their voices heard by all.